

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL SPENT HONEYMOON HERE IN HOUSE AT FOURTH AND ARCH STREETS

Men of Letters Recall on Centenary of Poet's Birth He Brought Bride to This City

One of His Manuscripts at Drexel Institute — Original of "A June Idyll" Presented by Childs

The centenary of the birth of James Russell Lowell, American poet, essayist and diplomat, which is now being observed in this city and throughout the country, has a particular significance for Philadelphia.

For it was here, though comparatively few know it, that Lowell brought his young bride, and their honeymoon was passed in lodgings at what was then 127 Arch street.

This building is still standing, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Arch streets, and is now being used in small manufacturing, scarcely a place of inspiration for a poet at present.

Lowell was born 109 years ago Saturday, the date also of Washington's birth, and at this time of the famous poet's centenary, literary men of Philadelphia speak in praise of his attainments. One of these men, Prof. Felix Schelling, of the department of English at the University of Pennsylvania, knew Lowell. Speaking of his meeting with the poet, in 1859, Professor Schelling said today:

"From the pictures I had seen of him I expected a large, dark man, but when he came in I was looking at a light man, rather slim, about five feet eight inches tall, and, at this particular moment, with rather watery eyes.

"As I was a young man at that time I looked upon him with awe, but I remember the impression he made on me with his genial, kindly and courteous manner. I heard him tell several stories. He was famous for his ability to tell a good story. He had the knack of giving a new and attractive turn to them.

Man of Many Accomplishments

"The thing that made Lowell stand out among all his contemporaries was that he was an all-around literary man. He was a poet, a satirist, an essayist, a political writer of philosophical interpretations and an able diplomat.

"He was the most brilliant and the best satirist among American men of letters. His satirical power is revealed in the famous 'Biglow papers dealing with political questions, beginning at the time of the Mexican War. His power of criticism and satire showed him a man of large affairs. The 'Biglow papers' represented a new departure in political criticism in America. I should say,

"As a poet alone, he is excelled by Longfellow and Bryant. Much of Lowell's poetry was prompted by the conditions of the moment. As an essayist he was not as great as Emerson. But he was an all-around man, a great literary man and a great diplomat. He was of the soil. He was very racial. He came from one of the two most distinguished New England families. He was thoroughly American. He saw things in a light which could be seen only by a man with our own roots. He was a thoroughly good American, a keen New Englander.

"Lowell was a liberal. He was not a radical. Liberty is almost the chief element in his writings. He reveals a charming wit and humor in the method of his treatment of political questions.

"He wrote about nature long before nature became a fad with writers. It is illustrated so clearly in his lovely book, 'My Study Windows.'

"It is interesting to note the great contrast in the ideals of Lowell and Walt Whitman, of Camden, Whittman was a rebel. He was against conventions. He fostered and followed a new spirit. Lowell got the best out of the old things. This is particularly shown in his criticisms. He looked at the old subjects which everybody had written about from a new angle.

"Lowell's appeal is universal, and he should appeal to men today as much as he appealed to the men of his own days. He has not been appreciated as fully today as he was, but I think the celebration of the centenary of his birth will cause the pendulum to swing back again.

"When a writer is largely controlled in his works by the questions of the day in which he lives, such as the political situation, he may become the greatest celebrity of his day, but he doesn't gain so much in after years. My idea is that the able literary man is an able man along other lines. History proves that the most cultivated men are often the best in dealing with the present as well as the past. Lowell made a brilliant record as ambassador to Spain and to England.

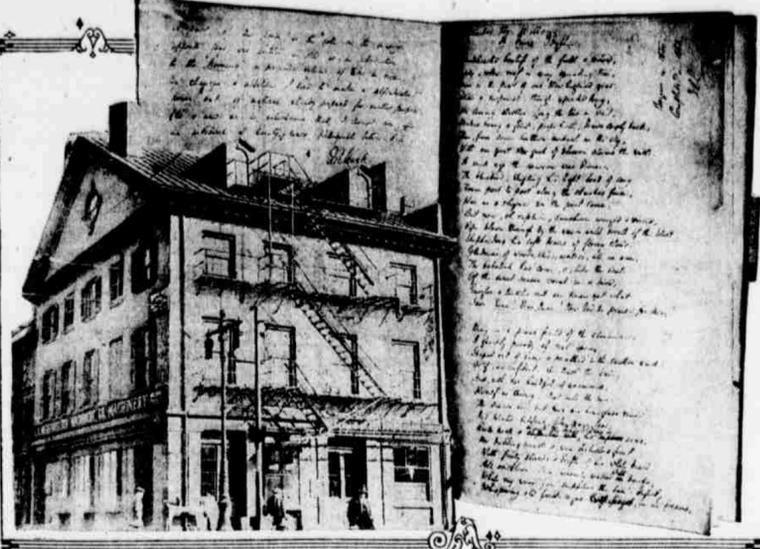
"His greatest work is the 'Commemoration Ode' of 1842. He reveals a love for the 'Vision of Sir Launfal.' Among his best works are also 'My Study Windows' and 'Among My Books.'

Regarded Chosen Profession a Joke

Lowell was born in Cambridge, Mass., and was descended from Percival Lowell, of Bristol, England, who settled in Newbury, Mass., in 1689, and was the progenitor of one of New England's most distinguished families.

At nineteen the poet was graduated from Harvard. For the next ten years he wavered in the choice of what was supposed to be his life work, among business, medicine, the ministry and the law. When he finally chose the law for his profession he regarded it somewhat in the nature of a joke.

Then came the great purpose in his life through love of the girl who became his wife. Her name was Maria White. She is said to have been an



The centenary of the birth of James Russell Lowell, American poet and diplomat, has a particular significance to Philadelphia. Lowell brought his young bride to this city and their honeymoon was passed in lodgings at the northeast corner of Fourth and Arch streets (shown at the left of the etching). At the right is the manuscript of James Russell Lowell's poem "A June Idyll," presented by George W. Childs to the Drexel Institute

exceptionally gifted and noble young woman. Their marriage was one of ideal happiness. They lived simply, but together found rich enjoyment in the world of books and of nature. Lowell married her in 1844.

She had been living in Philadelphia for some time before her marriage and had come to like the city very much. "I have talked so much to James of Philadelphia," she writes, "that I have inspired him with the desire to try its virtues." Lowell and his young bride came to Philadelphia on New Year's Day, 1845, on what was virtually their honeymoon.

The lodgings they took at 127 Arch street were conducted by a kindly Quakeress, Mrs. Parlier.

"We have a little room in the third story (back), with white muslin curtains trimmed with evergreen," Lowell wrote to a friend, "and are as happy as mortals can be." Mrs. Lowell echoed her husband's happiness in a letter to Mrs. Hawthorne.

"James's prospects," she wrote, "are as good as an author's ought to be, and I begin to fear we shall not have the satisfaction of being so very poor after all. But we are, in spite of this disappointment of our expectations, the happiest of mortals or spirits and cling to the skirts of every passing hour though we know the next will bring us still greater joy."

Shortly after his arrival in Philadelphia, Lowell wrote to a friend: "I have seen Graham and shall probably be able to make a good arrangement after my book has been put a little more. He has grown fat, an evidence of success. He lives in one of the finest houses in Arch street and keeps his own carriage. He says he would have given me \$150 for the 'Legend of Britanny' for his magazine without the copyright. I am sorry I did not think of this at the time."

Anticipating the birth of a child, the Lowells returned to Cambridge in May of the same year, after a feast in their honor at Chester County with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Davis, Lucretia Mott's son-in-law and daughter. They were not in Philadelphia long enough to become very closely identified with its people or its life.

After nine years of a most happy life

together death claimed the young wife and Lowell was left desolate. Thereafter he devoted himself more earnestly to his literary work. The tide in his fortunes began to turn in 1846, when at the time of the war with Mexico he began writing the famous and successful 'Biglow Papers.' In 1855 he succeeded Longfellow as Smith professor of modern languages at Harvard and for twenty years thereafter no man, not even Longfellow himself, was more honored or more popular as a teacher.

In 1857 he became the first editor of the Atlantic Monthly, and at once enlisted in his service as contributors the very flower of New England genius and ability, including virtually all of the great literary contemporaries.

He was appointed minister to Madrid by President Hayes in 1877. He was held to be eminently fitted for a diplomatic post by his learning, his accomplishments, his character and his slighted yet courteous manners.

In 1880 Lowell was transferred to the embassy at London. As ambassador to

the court of St. James, Lowell reaped a success and popularity which up to that time had been unequalled.

Lowell married a second time, his later bride being Miss Frances Dunlop, of Portland, Me. With her his life was a happy and congenial one. After resigning from the diplomatic service in 1885, he devoted himself to his writings and to travel. His death occurred at Elizabeth, the Cambridge house in which he was born, October 12, 1891.

As to Lowell's original manuscripts, it is difficult to locate the owners. Until recently there was only one listed private collection of Lowell, F. W. Lohman, of St. Louis, Mo. The Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, has the original of the poem "A June Idyll." It was in the collection of George W. Childs and was presented by him to the institute. There are ten pages of manuscript, with few corrections. It is written in ink. Lowell began it in 1839 and finished it in 1848, according to his own marginal notes. He explains more fully the writing of it in another notation.

BRITISH SELL HUGE WAR SUPPLIES HERE

Liquidation Ended Soon of Supplies Valued at \$120,000,000

Liquidation through sale in the open market of \$120,000,000 worth of finished products, semifinished products and raw materials left on the hands of the purchasing department of the British War Mission in the United States when the armistice was signed is expected to be completed by the end of April, it was learned yesterday. With this done it is probable that the present purchasing organization will be disbanded, although there is a possibility that the British Government will maintain a permanent buying agency in the United States.

The surplus now being sold by the war mission represents the war stock of only one of the three large purchasing agencies of the British Government in this country, and it is estimated that the total of such products and raw materials was close to \$500,000,000 when hostilities ceased.

Much Junk Included

These products included large amounts of steel, shell steel, steel ship plates and other articles, aside from a footstuffs, under contract. They are being gradually liquidated, large quantities having already been sold as mere junk. It is expected that the entire surplus will have been cleaned up by the end of April. Some copper and cotton held under contract are not being disposed of, but are being shipped to England as required. In all of the contracts made by the British Government with American producers and manufacturers there was an armistice clause allowing for immediate cancellation. It was said yesterday, however, that in no instance did a manufacturer sustain a loss through the strict enforcement of this provision. In some cases where American firms were far behind in their contract settlements were made on a liberal basis, although

there was no obligation on the part of the British Government to do so.

Spends Four Millions

The British War Mission, organized in September, 1917, to take over the purchasing for the British military and naval establishments from J. P. Morgan & Co., who had acted in that capacity since early in the war, bought about \$400,000,000 worth of American products and materials up to the first week in November 1918, when the armistice was signed. A conservative estimate put the value of the total expenditures of the British Government in this country for war materials at \$1,000,000,000. This included food, meats, wheat, sugar, horses, machine tools and all kinds of ordnance, shells, steel, copper and other metal products.

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Calif. Prunes lb. 16c, 19c, 22c	Evap. Peaches lb. 20c
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Pearly Barley lb. 5c	Table Sauce bot. 8c, 13c
Pearl Hominy lb. 4c	India Relish bot. 12c
Fancy Apricots lb. 27c	Horse Radish glass 9c
Asparagus tall can 18c	Prep. Mustard glass 7c
Sliced Peaches can 16c	Salmon 1/2 lb. can 12 1/2c
Pineapple can 15c, 27c	Bonita (Salt Tuna) can 15c
Sugar Beets big can 17c	Fancy Shrimp can 16c
Sweet Corn, can 15c, 18c	Sardines can 8c, 17c
Campbell's Soups, can 10c	Cleaners can 4c
Fancy Spaghetti, can 8c	Old Dutch Cleanser, can 8c
Dried Green Peas, lb. 12c	Toilet Paper, roll 4c, 9c
Yellow Split Peas, lb. 10c	Shaw's Boy Powder, p/g. 5c
Trenton Crackers, lb. 18c	Table Salt box 4c
Every Day Milk, big can, 14c	Seedless Raisins, pkg. 14c
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